

## What Is Claimed Is:

1. An electronic camera comprising:  
 image pick-up means for continuously imaging an object;  
 temporary memory means for temporarily storing plural frames  
 5 of image data continuously imaged by said image pick-up means;  
 shooting evaluation means for evaluating a good or bad  
 shooting state of the image data imaged by said image pick-up means;  
 still image selection means for selecting the image data with the  
 highest evaluation of said shooting evaluation means among the image data  
 10 stored in said temporary memory means; and  
 image saving means for saving the image data selected by said  
 still image selection means.
2. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 1,  
 wherein said temporary memory means begins temporary  
 15 storage of the image data after the release operation of the electronic camera.
3. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 1,  
 wherein said temporary memory means sequentially takes in  
 new image data from said image pick-up means and sequentially updates the  
 image data in the temporary memory means during a waiting state of the  
 20 release operation; and  
 after the release operation of the electronic camera, stops the  
 data update at the time of temporarily storing image data spanning from before  
 to after the release operation of the electronic camera.
4. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 1,  
 25 wherein said temporary memory means and said image saving  
 means use the same memory mechanism.
5. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 1,  
 wherein said temporary memory means differentially  
 compresses plural frames of image data which are continuously imaged by  
 30 said image pick-up means.
6. An electronic camera comprising:  
 image pick-up means for continuously imaging an object;  
 a memory medium that stores image data;

shooting evaluating means for evaluating a good or bad shooting state for individual image data imaged by said image pick-up means;

comparison means for comparing an evaluation of said

shooting evaluation means concerning image data within said memory

5 medium with an evaluation of said shooting evaluation means concerning new image data from said image pick-up means; and

image overwriting means for overwriting and recording new image data to said memory medium when the evaluation of the new image data is high in the old/new comparison of said comparison means.

10 7. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 6,  
wherein, as at least one of the good or bad evaluations of said shooting state, said shooting evaluation means detects a blurring amount of said image pick-up means.

15 8. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 7,  
wherein, as at least one of the good or bad evaluations of said shooting state, said shooting evaluation means determines the spatial frequency component of said image data.

9. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 8,  
wherein said shooting evaluation means determines a high-area  
20 component amount of the spatial frequency, based upon a compressed encoding amount of said image data.

10. The electronic camera as set forth in claim 9,  
wherein, as at least one of the good or bad evaluations of said shooting state, said shooting evaluation means determines a release time lag,  
25 which is a time difference between a release operation of the electronic camera and an image pick-up time of the image data.

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